



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council

**Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson**

**Tuesday, October 1, 2013**

**7:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

#### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### **I. ROLL CALL**

*The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Mayor Somers.*

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Streeter

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.*

#### **II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Alexis Walker and Julia Duval.*

#### **III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS**

##### **2013-0230 Proclamation Recognizing Fairview**

**Read**

*The proclamation was read by Councilor Watson.*

#### **IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*Betsy Gibson, 91 Jupiter Point Road, updated Councilors on the progress of the committee to promote branding Groton as "Submarine Capital of the World." Congratulatory letters are given to Navy couples getting married, Discover magazines are distributed, tee-shirts are being made, and a map of Groton branding it as "Submarine Capital of the World - the Best and the Brightest" is being developed.*

#### **V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*In answer to Councilors' questions, Ms. Gibson stated that materials are being developed and have not yet gone out to residents other than those in the Navy.*

*The Town Manager noted that street maps would be inexpensive to reproduce, but should not be made in large quantities so that the information will always be current.*

#### **VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **a. Approval of Minutes**

##### **2013-0231 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of September 3, 2013 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

##### **b. Administrative Items**

##### **2013-0227 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

## RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Emily Burke - \$13.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Patricia Carrigan - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Susan Decorte-McMillan - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Eileen Cicchese - \$31.74 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Karen Colgan - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Jane W. Coutu - \$60.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Diane Darling - \$12.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Susan Decorte - McMillian - \$1,500 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Kelsey Awfulness- \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Mark Fournier - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Heather Frost - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Patricia W. Garcia - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Lillian Green - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
SECADD, Inc. - \$300.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
James Ledwidge - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Janet Ledwidge - \$12.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Eric NNo tin- \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Emily Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
KKnightsof Columbus - \$300.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Daniel Pineault - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Barbara Strother - \$105.80 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Wesley Williams - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Lillian Zabinsky - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Neil Zabinsky - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Kirsti Zarn - \$52.91 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$18.79 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
City of Groton - July - \$63.77 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Christ United Methodist Church - \$400.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Lee Vincent - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

*Mayor Somers stated that the Town is thankful for these donations.*

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**

**2013-0223 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2013-0233 Police Boat Accident**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2013-0234 Designation of a Veterans' Service Contact Person**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**2013-0235 Appointment of Bernard French to Trails Coordinating Task Force**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Watson, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

**VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilors received emails regarding the police boat, non-resident property owners being able to vote on bonding issues, the Flanders Road extension referendum, and the Poquonnock Bridge Fire department.*

*Councilors attended a joint meeting with the RTM to discuss the budget process.*

*Councilor Watson and Councilor Schmidt participated in candidate interviews for the new superintendent of schools.*

*Councilor Watson and Councilor Flax attended the Board of Education/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison Committee meeting.*

*Councilor Schmidt and Mayor Somers had conversations with an individual about the fire department responding to medical emergencies and whether that should be a duty of the fire department.*

*Councilor Schmidt was asked why the Town is not using the acreage north of I-95. The Town Manager responded that the land is privately owned.*

*Mayor Somers attended the ground-breaking ceremony at Fairview, met with the Chairman of the Board of Education, and attended a meet and greet with superintendent candidates. She noted that in order to vote on a bonding referendum, a citizen must be a resident and registered to vote in Groton. Ms. Somers noted that on October 6, 2013, there will be a Pirate Invasion in downtown Mystic to benefit the Dana Farber Breast Cancer Foundation.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*The regular RTM meeting scheduled for October 9, 2013, has been cancelled due to lack of business. Members of the RTM attended a joint meeting with the Town Council on September 30, 2013, to discuss the budget process.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*The Town Clerk noted that the Rotary Club will be participating in Amber Alert registrations at the Fall Festival on October 12, 2013. She reminded citizens that there are vacancies on various boards and commissions, and those interested may obtain an application from the Town website or the Town Clerk's Office. The Town Clerk, along with Councilor Watson and the Shellfish Commission, seeded the Poquonnock River.*

**d. Town Manager**

*The Town Manager stated that a community garden forum at Mary Morrison School will be held on October 9, 2013, and an open house and ribbon-cutting for the New London Homeless Hospitality Center will be held on October 16, 2013. He received a Town Attorney opinion which stated that to vote in a bonding referendum, an individual must be a resident and registered voter in Groton per the Town Charter.*

**e. Town Attorney**

*No report.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Finance - Chairman Morton**

*No meeting, no report.*

**f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax**

*Councilor Flax noted that there are two individuals interested in serving on the Trails Coordinating Task Force but only one citizen-at-large vacancy. By consensus, the Council agreed that the second person could serve as the Town Council representative.*

**g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter**

*No meeting, no report.*

**h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas**

*No meeting, no report.*

**i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers****IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

**X. NEW BUSINESS****2013-0223 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION FOR A HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town has applied to the State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for a Hazard Mitigation Grant (Project #11-R) for the wind retrofit of the Town's highway garage, and

WHEREAS, the grant will provide federal reimbursement of 75%, with a 25% local funding requirement, and

WHEREAS, the Town approved the project and local funding in the FYE 2013 Capital Improvement Program, and

WHEREAS, the State has notified the Town that FEMA has approved the grant, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager, is authorized to execute the agreement with the State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for the Hazard Mitigation Grant for the wind retrofit of the Town's highway garage.

**A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Councilor Antipas noted that this grant will be used to physically strengthen the town garage structure so that it would be open during an emergency situation.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2013-0234 Designation of a Veterans' Service Contact Person**

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES AS THE TOWN OF GROTON VETERANS' SERVICE CONTACT PERSON

WHEREAS, Public Act No. 13-34, effective October 1, 2013, requires Connecticut cities and towns that do not have a veterans' advisory committee or veterans' service officer to designate a veterans' service contact person, and

WHEREAS, the veterans' service contact person shall coordinate all matters concerning veterans and their dependents in accordance with provisions of CGS Section 27-135(a), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby appoints the Director of Human Services, Marjorie Fondulas, as the Town of Groton veterans' service contact person.

**A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2013-0235**

**Appointment of Bernard French to Trails Coordinating Task Force**

**APPOINTMENT OF BERNARD FRENCH TO TRAILS COORDINATING TASK FORCE**

RESOLVED, that Bernard French, 52 Neptune Drive, is hereby appointed to the Trails Coordinating Task Force as an at-large member for a term expiring 1/1/16.

**A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Councilor Schmidt stated that the Southeastern Connecticut Step Up Employer Conference which will focus on ways to expand your business will be held on October 3, 2013.*

*Mayor Somers noted that the seminar will be especially useful for companies that specialize in biotec, medical, engineering, and manufacturing.*

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*

*Lori Watrous, Office Assistant*